

IN JAIL INSTEAD OF AT SEA

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SEÑOR MORALES THOUGHT HE HAD SAILED ON THE CAROLINA. ... Rafael Arango Morales of Port of Spain, Trinidad, who came to New York two months ago with twenty-eight square miles of rubber plantation in Venezuela to sell and a determination to buy some automobiles and other luxuries of a temperate zone had the misfortune to sail from here Saturday on the New York and Porto Rico Line steamship Carolina, which hit a barge in Buttermilk Channel off Governors Island and put back to her dock in Brooklyn. As an indirect result of this little hitch in the voyage to San Juan Morales was arrested late on Sunday night and yesterday he had to face a charge of grand larceny in the West Side court.

The technical charge upon which he was held in \$1,000 bail, after waiving examination, was the utterance of a bad check for \$30 upon the Trust Company of America. Samuel R. Olmsted of the United Supply Company, with offices in the Ft. Mifflin Building, was the sole complainant who appeared, but when the word was passed around that Señor Morales had not really gone back to Port of Spain but was enjoining in the Tombs in default of bail telephoned within the radius of six or seven centesimal switchboards in Manhattan was blazoned from boarding houses to business office and from business office to garage. There is a goodly company of men and two women up to last accounts who are eager to welcome Señor Morales home after his shipwreck in Buttermilk Channel.

It appears that the home of the South American rubber planter is in Port of Spain, though he does business in Caracas and his plantation is somewhere in the bush back of the capital city of Venezuela. The señor began his New York acquaintance on the boat which brought him up from the tropics two months ago. There was an American architect by the name of Mercer who was returning from Porto Rico, and with him Morales became very chummy. Before the boat arrived in New York Mercer had received an order to draw plans for a house and some factory buildings on Morales's rubber plantation and to spare no expense.

Mercer happens to be a friend of William J. Morrison, who is constantly on the lookout for good rubber lands in South America. The architect, remembering this, introduced Morales to Morrison and through Morrison Morales became acquainted with a constantly increasing circle of business and professional men in New York who had something to sell, from wine to automobiles. It is a fact that Señor Morales brought with him a draft for \$5,000, issued by a business firm in Port of Spain upon another firm in Caracas. This draft, in Venezuelan alluded several people to see. He also had with him receipted bills from a large commission house in New York showing that they had made purchases from him of between \$5,000 and \$9,000. The draft he deposited with the Trust Company of America for collection, and he leased a box in the North American Safe Deposit Company.

Morrison was the first person with whom Señor Morales did business. He found Morrison quite open to conviction as to the merits of his rubber plantation and negotiations went on for some time. Morales had figures of output, data on the nature of the soil and the age of the rubber trees, and he even drew a very clear map of the property, locating the house, the warehouse, and the factory. Last Wednesday Morrison and Morales went to Kinnelon, N. J., to see the 150 Nassau street, and a contract of sale was drawn up, something like \$60,000 being named as the purchase price. Only the arrival of the deeds to the property, which Morales had sent for, was necessary to close the deal.

In the meantime trouble was backing up for the Venezuelan. He had gone to the Hotel American in East Fifteenth street, the stopping place of most South Americans, on April and after giving the hotel one check for \$125 on D. A. De Lima, commission merchants at 17 State street, which was all right, he gave a second check on the same firm, which came back marked "not good." When Morales hesitated about refunding the amount of this second check, which was for \$30, the hotel people threatened his arrest and he finally settled the amount and left the hotel on June 7. He had expressed to Morrison and Morrison's brother-in-law, Olmsted, a desire to buy an automobile. They referred him to George T. Stantman, an automobile dealer of 210 West 47th street. There Morales picked out a car valued at \$1,250 and ordered it put in shape for him. While he was waiting for the car and Stantman was waiting to see a check covering the amount, Señor Morales ran up \$150 in automobile hire and then Stantman lost track of him.

Harry E. Phelps, who is the president of an automobile concern at 187 Broadway, was the next person with whom the rubber planter did business. Morales looked over Phelps's stock and picked out an \$1,100 car on June 7. He ordered it pointed another color and his order was filled on Monday. On the following day Morales visited Phelps and handed on account a check for \$600 on the Trust Company of America and borrowed \$35 in cash from Phelps. On the following day Morales dropped in on Phelps and asked if he had already cashed the check given to him the day before. When Morales learned that Phelps still had the check he asked that it be returned to him and one for \$300 be accepted instead. Phelps agreed to this and after Morales had torn up the first check and written the second, also on the Trust Company of America, Morales borrowed \$45 more from Phelps, just to save himself the trouble of cashing a check for a little pocket money.

Phelps sent this second check to the trust company on Wednesday and it was returned stamped "No funds." That was the last the automobile man saw of the rubber planter for several days. Morales visited the office of Samuel Olmsted on June 11, and when Olmsted called his attention to the fact that he had not yet paid for the car he had ordered of Kinnelon, he said that the automobile man had been making inquiries as to the possibility of recovering the \$150 in auto rents the South American señor said that it was all right. He was just making arrangements with the Trust Company of America to open an account there. Then he asked Olmsted to cash a check for \$30 upon the Royal Bank of Canada. Olmsted indorsed the check and it was cashed by the proprietor of the Flatiron Cafe, where Morales had spent a good many dollars.

Phelps has not yet come back from Canada, but a second one which Olmsted indorsed, this time for \$30 on the Trust Company of America, came back in a hurry. Olmsted did this favor for Morales last Thursday and the check came back from the trust company on Saturday. Morales had dropped into Olmsted's office on the evening of the same day and received the cash for the second check and asked to look at the signature again. He explained that he carried accounts in the Trust Company of America, the National Bank of Commerce and the Royal Bank of Canada and that he used a different signature for each bank. At the same time he assured Olmsted that he had just deposited \$40,000 with the Trust Company of America.

It was said yesterday at Police Headquarters that some time early in April Morales had deposited \$10,000 in the Trust Company of America, and that he had been asked to draw against these securities. Morales had said, when with the Trust Company of America, that he would get some more out and leave them with De Lima.

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THE CATSKILL MOUNTAINS. THE ULSTER & DELAWARE R. R. THE GRAND HOTEL. CATSKILL MOUNTAINS. SATURDAY, JUNE 25th.

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